From: aitken@eol.ca@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 5:07pm

To whom it may concern,

Really there is only one player in the desktop operating system business -
Microsoft.

All many people are asking for is an alternative to Microsoft. That alternative
would be in the form of a product (Linux) and leverage (to pressure Microsoft
to make better products/services at reasonable prices). With a monopoly as huge
as Microsoft, it is ironic, but also logical, that the only real competition
could come from grass roots and not business.

Microsoft should make it's code for things like .doc files made public so that
documents written with MS Word can be read accurately on machines running
Linux.

Microsoft should port MS Office to Linux. A decision to use a non-MS operating
system should not cut the user off from all other MS products.

Microsoft's insulting interpretation to the DOJ's charge of monopolism was to
deepen the monopoly by giving away software. They did not "give away" anything
- they are cultivating clients. They are selling complete dependence on
Microsoft products.

Use Microsoft or do without computers is no choice at all.

Things that are important to me:

1. Quality operating system. One thing that ensures quality is choice. Some MS
products are good but many have many problems - where is the incentive to
improve if Microsoft makes the only viable x86 OS around? I would rather make
my living having clients tap into the many and varied resources that Linux has
to offer, than having them endlessly re-boot MS operating suystems.

2. Choice of operating system without changing hardware. Apple needs different
hardware. On x86 hardware the only real choices (other than old/unsupported
OS/2) are Windows and Linux. Microsoft is working hard to ensure that Linux is
not a choice, by buying up the Internet and making it inaccessible to any
platform other than Windows.

3. Competitively priced operating system. Their cheapest OS is a hundreds of
dollars (out-of-ime with the present economy) - Linux's cheapest OS is free.

Miscellaneous complaints:

Microsoft recently purchased SGI 3D technology which could be used to pressure

hardware vendors to drop support for OpenGL.

Not so recently, Microsoft threatened to withdraw support for MMX if Intel did
not drop NSP software
development

MS possibly introduced error codes into - and possibly sabotaged - Apple's
Quick Time media. playback software.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Chris Aitken

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